

THE



Capitol

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NEWS

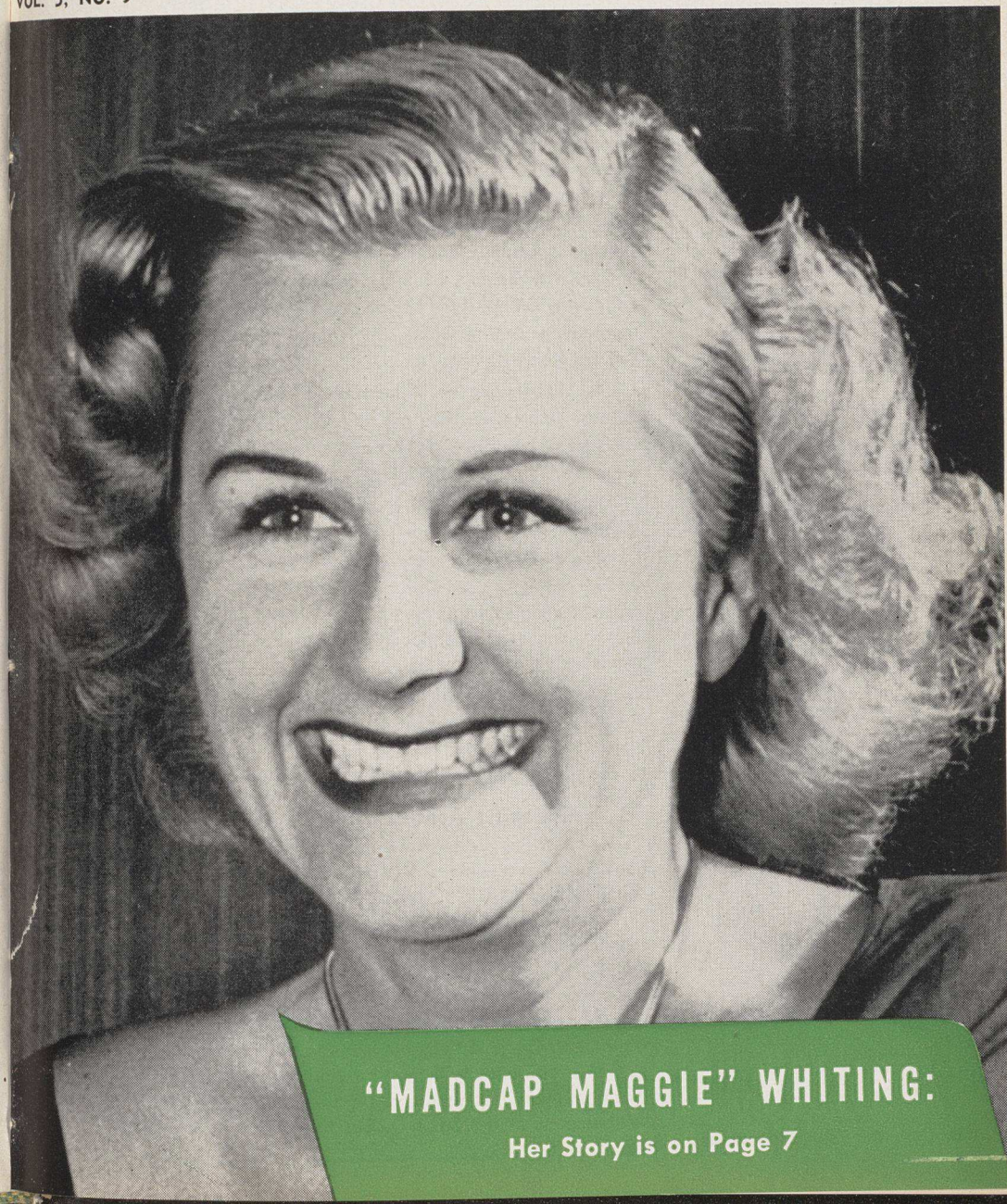
FROM HOLLYWOOD

VOL. 5, NO. 9



52

SEPTEMBER, 1947



"MADCAP MAGGIE" WHITING:

Her Story is on Page 7

THE **Capitol**
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At Deadline

Ooo, that Oxydol sparkle! Jack (Laughing Boy) Smith is now a Californian, and is airing his CBS soap program from Hollywood five nights weekly. Smith was born in the Golden Bear State, attended and taught school here, but made his mark—as most western showmen do—in Manhattan. After all those years he's back... and happier than ever.

Carmen Lombardo and wife passed through L. A. en route to Hawaii for vacation. Irving Berlin and family just returned.

Duke Ellington goes into the L. A. Million Dollar Theater for a week starting Sept. 9.

Jack Leonard, the former T. Dorsey singer, has the leading role in Columbia Pic's "Glamour Girl" film which now is shooting. Sam Katzman producing.

Marilyn and Al Jarvis named their new son, born Aug. 2, Jeffrey Michael Junior Jarvis.

The Pied Pipers turned in their resignation from Lucky Strike Hit Parade show and will not be heard when Sinatra takes it over shortly.

Slam Stewart returned east and Poison Gardner's Trio moved into the L. A. Toddle House in mid-August. Stewart was a disappointing draw during his four weeks in Southern California.

•RECORDING STUDIO•



Now... Do I Get That Raise?



DAVE DEXTER'S surface noise

EVERY TIME Duke Ellington hits California, rash arguments as to whether his band is "slipping" start all over again. Pioneer L. A. musicians point out that it never fails. And this year was no exception.

Ellington's current crew is considerably changed from the one he fronted last fall. Cat Anderson and Taft Jordan are missing in the trumpet section; Dud Bascomb is the new man along with Duke regulars Scad Hemphill, Harold Baker, Ray Nance and Francis Williams. Tyree Glenn is in Wilbur DeParis' tram chair with the tried-and-true Larry Brown and Claude Jones flanking him. Glenn doubles vibes, but so far hasn't been given much opportunity to display his mallet-wielding talents. The saxes and rhythm haven't changed. Russ Procope and John Hodges are on altos; Al Sears, tenor; Jimmy Hamilton, clarinet and tenor, and Harry H. Carney still anchors 'em all with his big, booming baritone. Freddie Guy, Oscar Pettiford and Sonny Greer—who has been ailing recently—round it out, instrumentally, with the Duke still running the piano arpeggios as only Edward Kennedy runs 'em.

Al Hibbler is gone. A lad named Chester Crumpler, who at times is more impressive than his name, is the replacement. Kay Davis is the fem singer. Bill Strayhorn remains the Duke's right hand, in more ways than one.

Also long gone, but unforgotten, of course, are men like Cootie, Barney, Rex, Tricky, Taft Jordan, Ben Webster, Ivie Anderson, Jim Blanton and a dozen more who down through the two decades that Ellingtonia has flowered, played their part in making the E.K.E. music the greatest this country has yet produced. Last year, at Ciro's, the band was tremendously successful. This year nothing much happened.

But all bands fared better a year ago.

For better or for worse, the Duke is still the Duke. With Ingle's Natural Seven behind him he'd still sound magnificent, compared to competing aggregations of this zany era.

Scooping Around... The Hollywood Beat

Another Peggy Lee-Dave Barbour setup is in the works now that Bob Dukoff and bride, Anita Boyer, are rehearsing a new band with Anita tabbed for 50-50 billing as vocal star of the 10-piece combo. Dukoff is using five reeds (including his own pretty tenor pipe), one trumpet and four rhythm... Letters are inundating Billie Holiday at the Federal Women's Reformatory at Alderson, W. Va. She's reported to be responding to medical treatment nicely... Louis Armstrong is creating the big excitement here right now, despite the fraudulent, Grade Z "New Orleans" film in which he was victimized... Mildred Bailey will soon be working in California... The best blues in town last month were offered by Jay McShann and Jim Witherspoon at the Susie-Q. But the Citizenry Said No.

Kenton Rolls Again This Month

Christy Definitely Rejoining



Stan Kenton starts rehearsing his band this month and will hit the road, on Sept. 27, and resume as one of the top orks in the nation's ballrooms, hotels and niteries. June Christy, who has been working as a single in Chicago and New York, will definitely return to the fold as Stan's canary and Stan plans to regularly feature two bongo drummers in his new rhythm section, headed as in the past by Shelly Manne.

Stan's doctor has proclaimed the tall Artistry in Rhythm maestro to be in "excellent" physical shape. Stan himself feels great. "The band," he says, "will be a better one than we had last spring. Most everyone is returning—only Vido Musso, on tenor, and Trombonist Skippy Layton are uncertain. The Pastels won't be back but June certainly will be. We may even take on a new male singer."

Kenton plays west coast-one-nighters in October after two nights "breaking in" his reorganized crew at Balboa Beach.

Stan's manager, Carlos Castel, is busy

working out a full fall and winter itinerary with GAC, which books the band. Pete Rugolo returns to head the SK arranging staff.

Kenton, tanned from the bright California sun, said he was rested and "ready." He plans several innovations in the band, some of which, he declared, will require much rehearsing.

Bob Crosby For Film

Sam Coslow, producer of "Hollywood Review," which rolls next January, has set Bob Crosby for a fat role and is dickering with Margaret Whiting.

Mab Mab Heads East

Charlie Barnet this month rushes east for engagements following a successful run at the Aragon Ballroom, Ocean Park.

NAT COLE, soon to go east on a long tour after several months in California, recently featured Sarah Vaughan on his Saturday NBC program for Wildroot. Vaughan, still virtually unknown on the coast, just concluded a run at the Hollywood Bodge. It was her first try as a single, west of Chicago, and the consensus was that she'll do better next time. —Gene Howard Photo.

Concerts For Nat Cole, Then N.Y. Niteries

The King Cole Trio, playing Salt Lake City Sept. 1 to 7, continues east to play concerts throughout the Middlewest for six weeks. Then, on Oct. 22, Nat, Oscar and Johnny will open at the Troubadour Club, New York. Combo airs for Wildroot over NBC every Saturday.

East Holds Mel Torme

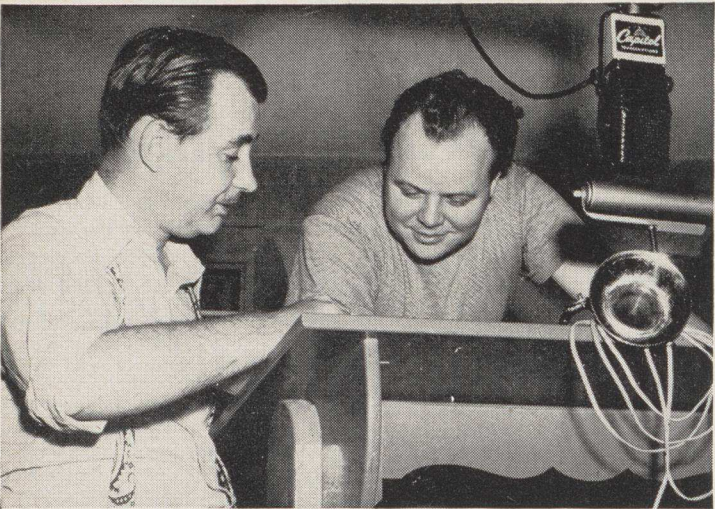
Mel Torme, in H'wood last month briefly, returns east for a Sept. 2 opening at Frank Dailey's Meadowbrook in New Jersey. On Oct. 8, along with Charlie Spivak's band, the "Velvet Fog" opens at N. Y. Paramount Theater.

Freddy Martin Coasting

Working his way back to Hollywood after an all-summer tour of the east, Freddy Martin expects to return to his old stand at the Hotel Ambassador's Coconut Grove on Sept. 30. Eddy Howard's music has been featured during Freddy's absence.



WELL, IT WAS THISAWAY, Red Ingle tells you as he sees an opening to plug his new "Them Durn Fool Things Remind Me Of You" and "Song Of Indians" record, a natural Natural Seven sequel to "Temptation." Ingle hits the road from Hollywood this month.



BUTTERBALL, also known in music circles as Billy Butterfield, was caught by a Capitol News photog on a recent waxing session which produced "Until The Real Thing Comes Along." The gent assisting the pudgy trumpeter is Lee Gillette, who supervised Butterfield's recent sessions in New York.

Perry Como, Jo Stafford On NBC Again Sept. 8-9

(See Pages 8 & 9)

Jo Stafford is set to return as star of the Tuesday and Thursday editions of the Chesterfield Supper Club airshow on Sept. 9 after playing eastern theaters and enjoying a short "vacation" at her home in Long Beach, Cal.

Returning to the air for the fall and winter season with Jo will be Paul Weston and his orchestra, comprised of the best musicians in Hollywood. Herbie Haymer, Nick Fatool, George Van Epps, Ray Linn, Milt Raskin, Matty Matlock and Freddie Stulce hold down the key chairs.

Perry Como also returns to Chesterfield this month, and will be featured Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays via NBC with Lloyd Shaffer's ork. Como just signed a two-year contract with



NELLIE LUTCHER
And Her Rhythm
Vocal with Rhythm Accompaniment
'HE'S A REAL GONE GUY'
'LET ME LOVE YOU TONIGHT'
From the Latin-American Song,
"No Te Importe Saber"
Capitol Record No. 40017



Capitol
RECORDS

vine street gab

BING CROSBY will return to the air on Oct. 1 with Gary Cooper as his guest. The programs, sponsored by Philco every Wednesday for release on more than 350 ABC outlets throughout the land, again will feature the orchestra of John Scott Trotter and the Conlon vocal chorus. Peggy Lee and the Charioteers will be featured frequently—but not every week—through the fall and winter series of 39 broadcasts.

Crosby transcribed his first show on Aug. 10 and is now hunting and fishing in Wyoming with his scripter, Bill Morrow. The Groaner will present Jimmy Durante as his second guest on Oct. 8. The disc also has been cut.

Stan and Violet Kenton purchased a new cabin cruiser, sleeping five, and promptly got lost trying to navigate to Catalina. On return trip their daughter, Leslie, just 6, toppled to the deck and fractured her collarbone.

George Frazier scooted back to N.Y. after five weeks in Filmtown interviewing showfolk and reviewing wax for Weekly Variety.

Following the current N. Y. fad of posting a hot mike in a nitery and gabbing informally with patrons, Bill (KFWB) Anson inaugurated his own "Midnight at Sardi's" stanza last month at Hollywood and Vine. Anson, a former vaude trouper himself, is making the thing go despite efforts of songpluggers, press agents and other mercenaries to sabotage the entertainment by loading the two-hour stanza with free plugs. Bill also continues his KFWB "Hollywood Bandstand" program from 1 to 4 p.m. daily.

Singers and musicians are cooperating wholeheartedly, in Hollywood at least, with Walter Winchell's untiring efforts to raise loot for a Damon Runyon fund to eliminate cancer. Brightest example: the Aug. 25 baseball game featuring Sinatra's team against Andy Russell's. But even the smallest niteries are pitching in, and the receipts are beginning to pile up. Winchell, here in H'wood the past two months, spent his entire vacation pushing the campaign—and raving about Nellie Lutcher's talents.

Al Jolson will feature Oscar Levant on the new Kraft program which stars Jolson starting this month.

New Satchmo' Combo Pure 'Gutbucket'



PERT PATTI Clayton holds down the fem singing spot on the Franco-American program Tuesdays and Thursdays with Bob Crosby, the Modernaires and Jerry Gray's band via CBS. This gives you an idea why. On Mondays, Fridays and Wednesdays Cover Cal Maggie Whiting is featured vocally.

Recalls Spirit Of the 'Hot 5'

Louis Armstrong is packing 'em in at Billy Berg's, where he opened on Aug. 13 with a gutbucket jazz combo in which Jack Teagarden is featured.

Sharing the bandstand with Nellie Lutcher, Old Satchmo' (who, actually, was 47 years old two months ago) is back leading a compact, musical aggregation comprised of musicians who obviously enjoy playing "head" and skeleton arrangements.

Sid Catlett on Drums

Presiding over the tubs is Big Sid Catlett, who was Armstrong's drummer for a decade before cutting out—during the war—to lead his own group. Catlett just broke up his band in N.Y. in order to join Louie in California.

Teagarden, a jazz giant himself, also is in his best fettle with a small combo. His blues duets, vocally and instrumentally, with Armstrong are much-requested. Dick Carey is at the piano.

Mills Brothers Are Next

Nellie Lutcher is leaving, soon, to play in New York. Armstrong will hold forth until the Mills Brothers open on Sept. 10. They are said to be signed for seven weeks at \$3000 per. Berg said that Louis Jordan will follow the Mills Brothers on Oct. 29 at \$3500 per week.

Armstrong just concluded scenes for Sam Goldwyn's "That's Life" film. And if he has his way, he will continue fronting a small combo. Just like the old Hot Five and Hot Seven days!

San Diego 'All Out' For Alexander's Pipes

Now featured at the Cin-A-Bar in San Diego, Joe Alexander is mopping up in Sailortown with his own combo. He can stay as long as he wants, so great has been the reaction to his songs. Joe's "Cling To Me, Baby," waxing is the biggest seller he's produced to date.



BETTY RUSSELL airs her fetching pipes Fridays via ABC from Hollywood on the net's "Music Library" show. On Sundays, Betty chirps on the "Hollywood Music Hall" stanza beamed as far east as Denver by ABC. And the fan mail rolls in!

Haymes, Durbin Start 'Central Park' Film

Free of his contract with 20th-Fox, Dick Haymes on Sept. 2 starts work on the Universal-International lot in "Up In Central Park," a film version of the Broadway musical hit, with Deanna Durbin as co-star. Karl Tunberg will produce it. Haymes' radio series for Auto-Lite also will resume soon.

Murray Bags Warren

Ken Murray signed Annette Warren for a singing spot in his "Blackouts" show in Hollywood. She's also featured in a Life mag spread in connection with Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis, Army grid stars now featured in films.

Butch Stone to Beach; His Ork Spells Welk's

Butch Stone took his band into the Aragon Ballroom at Ocean Park on Aug. 26 to alternate on the stand with Lawrence Welk's crew. Stone, long featured with Les Brown, just wound up a brilliant run at the L. A. Red Feather Club.

McLean Leaves West

Jack McLean, a San Diego band, left California in August and will open at the O'Henry Ballroom, Chicago, on Sept. 24 for four weeks.

The Hamp Fetes BG

Lionel Hampton presented Benny Goodman with a trophy Aug. 3 at the Meadowbrook Ballroom, Culver City, acknowledged BG's contributions to American music.

Caesar Petrillo, for personal kicks while vacationing from his Chicago radio studio chores, took a 20-piece ork into the Casino Terrace on Santa Catalina Island. He returns to the Windy City in mid-September. He's Czar Petrillo's son.

'I MISS YOU SO'
the king cole trio

'I THINK YOU GET WHAT I MEAN'

Capitol Record No. B444



Capitol
RECORDS





NELLIE LUTCHER poses with the men who backed her piano and singing talents on her smash "Hurry On Down" discing. They are Billy Hadnott, bass; Lee Young, drums, and Ulysses Livingston, guitar. Nellie cuts out from California to make her debut at Cafe Society Downtown on Sept. 16.

Goodman's Vile Trousers Spark Technicolor Movie

Dozens of Hollywood musicians were relaxing for the first time in months, as August ended, with the completion of production of Sam Goldwyn's movie, "That's Life," which will star Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo.

Benny Goodman has a major acting role in the production, playing the part of a "square" college professor who becomes a hot clarinetist after reading a jazz book. The film, in Technicolor, also will show Goodman with a phony mustache, a seersucker coat and the vilest-colored herringbone trousers ever photographed.

Plenty of Big Name Talent
Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton, Tommy Dorsey and Charlie Barnet have important spots in the film, Dorsey and Barnet appearing with their bands and playing their respective themes. Benny Carter, Irving Ashby, Phil Moore and Charlie Drayton will be seen and heard in one lavish scene featuring Armstrong and the Hamp. Also Zutty Singleton.

With Dave Barbour and His Orchestra

peggy lee

'IT TAKES A LONG LONG TRAIN WITH A RED CABOOSE (TO CARRY MY BLUES AWAY)'

'JUST AN OLD LOVE OF MINE'

Capitol Record No. B445

New York Next For 'Real Gone' Nellie Lutcher

With her first two platters spinning up a breeze on the nation's turntables, Nellie (Real Gone Gal) Lutcher was packing her bags and making reservations, in late August, for her first trip to New York and a long-run engagement at Barney Josephson's Cafe Society Downtown in Greenwich Village.

Nellie, one of the most barrelhouse characters to emerge in the music field in years, will open at the Manhattan niteroy on Sept. 16. Last month she signed a contract with Carlos Gastel, who thus adds Nellie to his table of top talent including Stan Kenton, the King Cole Trio, Peggy Lee, June Christy and Mel Torme. Gastel will act as Nellie's personal manager for a minimum of three years.

Before cutting out, Lutcher etched a batch of new waxings for Capitol, a majority of the selections original Lutcher compositions. Lee Young is the drummer on all her discs and Billy Hadnott the bassist. Ulysses Livingston and Nappy Lamare have alternated on the guitar.

Like Frankie Laine (see page 13), Nellie has kicked around for many years. For the last 12 years she lived in Los Angeles, gigging here and there in minor bistros without attracting any offers for recording, film and radio work. Originally, she came out of Lake Charles, La., where she started playing the piano when she was 6 years old. But she tasted everything but success until Capitol, last April, bagged her sig on a contract and made plans to publicize her as a new "find."

Music dominates things in the Lutcher family. Her father was a prominent Louisiana bandleader for many years, and it was in his combo that young Nellie perfected her piano and vocal technique. Her younger brother, Joe Lutcher, also living in Los Angeles now, leads his own 8-piece jump crew and recently played a successful short stint at Billy Berg's Club between the Benny Carter-Louis Armstrong bookings. Joe is an alto saxist-singer.

Welk Opens at Aragon

"Champagne" music as styled by Lawrence Welk, his accordion and orchestra is the new attraction at the Aragon Ballroom on Lick Pier in Ocean Park, just a short drive from Hollywood. Bobby Beers is the vocalist. Welk has played the Aragon previously.

Margaret (Madcap Maggie) Whiting Has Always Been Thataway, Mother Asserts

(This Month's Cover Feature)
When Margaret Whiting was 2 years old she frequently threw a tantrum if the family phonograph wasn't playing. "By the time she was 3," her mother recalls, "she knew nearly 100 songs."

That was back in Detroit, where the singer was born. When she was 4, her parents moved to Hollywood. Her father, the late Richard Whiting, became one of the most popular and prolific tunesmiths in Tune Pan Alley's history. Her aunt, Margaret Young, was as famous a singer in the 1920's as young Margaret is today. Her mother managed Miss Young for a time and then devoted her life to rearing Margaret and younger sister Barbara, now a 16-year-old film star at 20th-Fox.

"My Ideal" Her First Click
Margaret got her professional start as a singer with the help of Johnny Mercer, who was first to put her on the air and on records. On those first discs, made in 1942, she waxed with Billy Butterfield, turning out "My Ideal" for a smash start. Since then she's become a star on her own, with a half-dozen big selling platters. Right now she's featured three nights a week on Bob Crosby's F-A spaghetti program via CBS. And, Maggie admits, a movie deal is brightly simmering.

On wax, and on the air, however, the confident Whiting gal doesn't sound as barrelhouse—as zany—as she actually is in private life. She tosses more parties than anyone in Hollywood, Atwater Kent not excepted. Every night is party night at the Whiting manse in Bel-Air, just west of Hollywood, with actors, musicians, newspapermen and all types of characters welcome.

Fluffs Off Heavy Romance
Madcap Maggie likes people. The more the better. Her father liked people, too, and it was always open house with him while Margaret, and baby Barbara, chased through the house. Margaret leaned towards music while her sister turned to histrionics. Came 1942, and Mercer gave Maggie her first big break over a network as a canary. Later came her waxing of "It Might as Well Be Spring." Right now she's rolling in high with "You Do" and "My Future Just Passed," which Pop Whiting clefled 18 years ago.

Approximately 79 guys have asked her to marry them. Three or four still



BARBARA NELSON, who plays alto, clary, flute and bass clarinet, gets help from Benny Carter in building her new California band. Carter has written most of the book. Sixteen musicians, all males, form the new Nelson combo.

Cavanaugh Band Boffo in Ventura

On his first attempt to lead a band of his own in a niteroy, Dave Cavanaugh is clicking at the Castle Club, in Ventura, and already the management has picked up two options.

Cavanaugh, noted for his tenor sax prowess and as Joe Alexander's musical director, features Jack Crowley on alto; Jack Turner, drums; Sid Bender, baritone; John Black, piano; Abe Siegel, bass, and Sid Zaid, trumpet, who was on notice as press time neared. Ventura is north of Hollywood on the ocean.

Music For Tarzan Pic
Music has finally edged its way into the Tarzan movies. The series of adventure flicks starring Johnny Weissmuller will assume a "civilized" air with the release of "Tarzan and the Mermaids" this fall with John Laurenz, baritone, singing "The Magnificent Benji" and "My Guitar Serenade." Sol Lesser is producing the deal, much of which was filmed in Old Mexico.

Phil Moore Busy Mixing Classical With Jazz Idiom

Ambitious isn't the word for Phil Moore, Oregon-born pianist, arranger, composer and conductor, who has made his home in Hollywood for several years.

Moore, a former MGM staffer and Lena Horne accompanist, has been drawing fine notices with his new small combo which has successively played the Bodge and, "more recently, the Rounders Club in Hollywood with Ernie Royal, Red Callender, Lee Young and other topnotch sidemen. But on the side, he's been busy composing several "serious" works, including a piano concerto and a concerto for trombone which Murray McEachern and a symphony orchestra will premiere later this year.

Before turning to Hollywood, Phil worked as arranger with a half-dozen name bands. Now he's combining jazz and the classical idioms as few musicians have ever attempted to do.

Jackson Exits MGM; Plans Concert Tour

Calvin Jackson resigned his post with the MGM music department last month and will tour the nation this fall as a piano soloist. Jackson, a Juilliard grad who is equally adept at classical as he is with jazz, indicated he would not return to film activities in the future.

His lyrics rock 'em out of the saddle!

TEX WILLIAMS
And His Western Caravan

'SMOKE! SMOKE! (THAT CIGARETTE)'
Vocal by Tex Williams and Trio

'ROUNDUP POLKA'
Vocal by Tex Williams

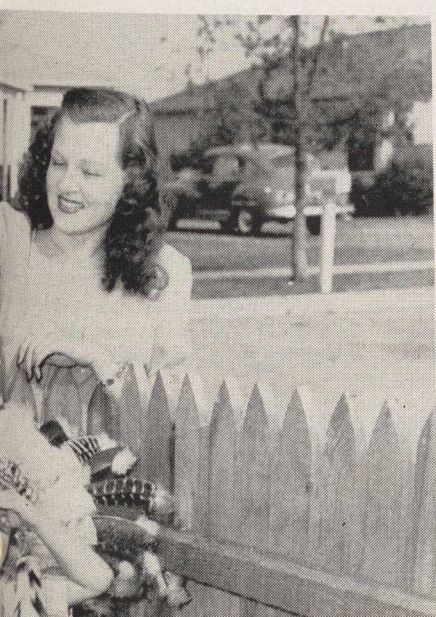
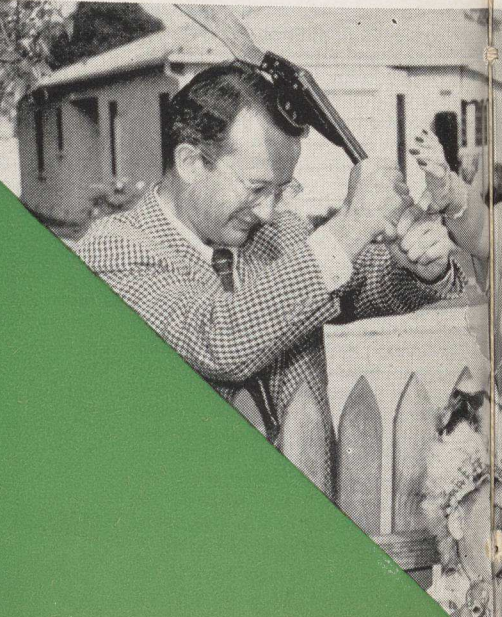
Capitol Record No. 40001



So the Lady Took a Rest!?!?

When Jo Stafford concluded her theater appearances in late August she promptly made a bee-line for her family's home in Long Beach. There, away from the frenetic and frantic Hollywood scene, she prepared to vacation for several weeks before resuming her NBC Chesterfield radio series on September 1.

But her nephew, Chris Folz, just 4, quickly put an end to Jo's hiatus. Paul Weston helped, too, by hounding Jo for record sessions, and planning new tunes and arrangements for the coming radio series. These photos, by Ray Whitten, depict the hassle that resulted. Between young Chris and the energetic Weston, La Belle Stafford will be happy to return to the mike. Singing is much easier than playing cops and robbers day and night.



with disc-jockeys...

the men who make a career
of knowing records

Capitol

RATES TOPS for
SERVICE!
QUALITY! IDEAS!
ARTISTS! ALBUMS!
RECORDS!

Now it can truly be said that "With men who know records best, its Capitol."

Billboard, the world's foremost amusement weekly, recently completed a poll among the leading disc jockeys of the country; men that you listen to and enjoy. Because these men have made a career out of knowing and playing records, they were asked a number of questions about records and record companies. **It was a clean sweep for Capitol!**

BEST LIKED VOCALISTS

SINGING GROUPS—Capitol's PIED PIPERS first by almost twice as many votes! With THE DINNING SISTERS in 5th place, followed by THE KING COLE TRIO, 7th (They're in on everything!).

ALL-ROUND POPULAR FEMALE—Capitol places with 3 out of four tops—JO STAFFORD, PEGGY LEE, MARGARET WHITING.

FEM BAND VOCALIST—JUNE CHRISTY, first by twice as many as 2nd place!

BEST LIKED BANDS

SWING—STAN KENTON, first... with BENNY GOODMAN 2nd, leading 3rd place by double!

CORN—RED INGLE, a new band with only one record out (Watta record!) runs second, beating out many oldsters.

BEST LIKED RECORDS

POPULAR ALBUMS—"Artistry In Rhythm," Kenton's Capitol classic, way out front.

KIDDIE ALBUMS—Capitol gets top four... TALES OF UNCLE REMUS; BOZO AT THE CIRCUS; RUSTY IN ORCHESTRAVILLE; MARGARET O'BRIEN, STORIES FOR CHILDREN.

FOLK RECORDS—"TIM-TAYSHUN," of course — TOPS!... with Johnny Mercer's "A Little Too Fer" and Merle Travis' "So Round, So Firm, So Fully Packed" up in the running.

Briefly, these poll results are your assurance of getting the *Outstanding Artists* and the *Latest Songs* on records of *Top Quality* and *Long Life*... From Capitol.



It is your assurance that when you buy Capitol Records, from every standpoint you are buying the best.



IF DEANNA DURBIN'S manner of spinning records doesn't strike you as typical of your own fave jockey, blame Al Jarvis of Hollywood's KLAC. Jarvis, whose "Make Believe Ballroom" program is in its fifteenth year, served as technical adviser on Deanna's "Something In the Wind" film for Universal-International. That's Jarvis, above, with Deanna on the U-I lot. Jarvis will resume his "Can You Tie That?" programs soon on KLAC with top guest stars dropping in to review all the new records. And Columbia Pictures, which rang the ball last year with "The Jolson Story," will soon start shooting a new musical based on Jarvis' daily program.

MEET THE JOCKEY!

"JACK THE BELLBOY" is one of Detroit's hottest ether attractions over 250-watt WJBK with two wax programs daily. "Jack" actually is Ed McKenzie, 36, a former engineer. A crack photog, he averages around 200 letters daily, and his recent rebuke of prejudiced listeners complaining that he played Negro jazz was credited with easing a dangerous crisis in the Motor City. He spins every type music—and likes it.



'Horn' a Clinker; WB Won't Make It

After kicking around Dorothy Baker's "Young Man With a Horn" book for six years, Warner Brothers' just announced that plans for producing it on the screen have been shelved. Jerry Wald intended to produce it. Bobby Sherwood had been mentioned for the leading role.

Palladium Will Offer Lawrence Band Nov. 18th

Marking the first time his orchestra has played on the west coast, Elliott Lawrence will bring his group into the Hollywood Palladium on Nov. 18 for four weeks. He will be preceded by Jimmy Dorsey and Harry James.

Lawrence, a pianist, was a sort of "prodigy" as a child. In addition to beating the Baldwin, he writes arrangements and composes original tunes. His work is styled along the lines of the Claude Thornhill band.

The youthful Philadelphian is reported to have a Palladium contract considerably different from the usual binders tendered by the ballroom's management. His fee every week will be a guaranteed \$3,500 with a 50-50 split on all box-office monies over \$12,500. Gordon (Tex) Beneke's outfit is slated to follow the Lawrence band at the Pally on Dec. 23 with Beneke also bagging a "split" deal.

Bigard Blowing With Armstrong At Berg's

Barney Bigard is back in the Hollywood limelight, playing hot clarinet with Louis Armstrong at Billy Berg's. The former Ellington reed star, who makes his home in Los Angeles, gets billing along with Armstrong, Jack Teagarden, Dick Carey and Morty Corb, bass. Bigard also will be seen in Sam Goldwyn's "That's Life" movie along with numerous other noted musickers.

Russell's New Firm

Andy Russell, winding up his stint on the Hit Parade, said he soon would open his own music pubbing firm in Hollywood. He just returned from a long trip into the East and Midwest.

Harry Richman Due

Long gone from the Hollywood scene, Harry Richman was skedded to open at Ciro's about Sept. 1 as star of the floor-show.

Gordon MacRae New Cap Singer

The first Capitol discs featuring the voice of youthful Gordon MacRae, New York baritone, will be released next month.

MacRae, heard regularly on three network airshows over 540 stations, was signed to a long-term recording binder in late August. A veteran of the war, he served with the AAF for nearly three years. Before the war he sang with Horace Heidt and other bands.

MacRae, who doubles piano, sax and clary, is married to Sheila Stevens, the actress, and they have two daughters.



off the cuff

DIXIELAND JAZZ is making a definite comeback in Southern Cally with Chicago trumpeter Pete Daily leading the parade at the Hangover Club on Vine at Sunset. Pee-Wee Hunt's sprightly two-beat combo for several months has been attracting as much favorable comment as the "major" attraction at the ornate Palladium. And more and more frequently, of late, men like Eddie Miller, Matty Matlock, Nappy Lamare, Wingy Manone, Joe Rushton, Ray Bauduc and Marv Ashbaugh have been receiving invitations to star at various concerts and bashes throughout the L. A. area.

Two years ago, the talk centered around the bop boys. Now the boppers are gone. Many jazz fans hereabouts assert that an outfit similar to the old Bob Crosby crew could easily become the next nation's favorite.

Marilyn Grady joined the Garwood Van band as sparrow.

Erroll Garner, pianist last featured at the Haig on Wilshire, cut out for Pittsburgh, his home town. Kenny Clark took over the Haig job as a single.

The Paragons (bass, piano and accordion) are accompanying Nick DeLano's songs at the California Cabana Club.

MGM made a deal with Martin Block which will find the jockey (who airs for Warner Brothers' KFWB) producing a series of musical shorts. Block, who will be seen in the shorts, will be paid \$5,000 per short with a minimum of four a year guaranteed.

Holding down the drums in Wingy Manone's Dixie combo here in Hollywood these nights is Zutty Singleton, who got his start in New Orleans jazz circles even before Wingy.

Audrey Manners is new singing star at Beverly Hills Tropics.

Chuy Reyes and Phil Ohman, at the Mocambo, splitting music chores with their bands.



SMOKE, SMOKE, Smoke is Tex Williams' suggestion to dancers who are flocking to hear him, in person, now that his "Smoke" etching is a national favorite. Tex just made a musical short for Universal-International and is following up his smash disc with "Downtown Poker Club" and "That's What I Like About the West." All of his stuff appears in the new red label Cap "Americana" series.

Heavy Schedule For T. Dorsey; Ork Going East

Tommy Dorsey has a frantic schedule mapped out for himself and his band this month.

Closing at his own Casino Gardens Ballroom in Ocean Park, Calif., he will take his band north to Sacramento for a Sept. 3 to 6 engagement at the State Fair. Then, leaving his band in California, he plans to fly to New York to transcribe his new jockey show and attend to business matters with his booking reps, MCA. Returning to the coast on Sept. 13, Tommy will then shove off on a cross-country tour with his band; a tour which will find his combo featured for six nights at the corn festival (!) in Mitchell, S. D., Sept. 22-27.

Finally, in October, Dorsey takes his band into eastern theaters.

Brother Jimmy and the JD orchestra, meanwhile, will open at the Hollywood Palladium on Sept. 2. Frankie Masters takes over Tommy's Casino Gardens bandstand.

New Airshow For Andrews Sisters

The Andrews Sisters have been signed to sing on the Campbell Soup program starting Sept. 29.

The programs will emanate from Hollywood.

The sisters, who cancelled their trip to Great Britain recently and went into the Riviera in New Jersey instead, also hope to star in their own motion picture this fall.

MEET THE JOCKEY!

HAL GRAVES was a straight announcer when he first took over a WKBN mike in Youngstown, Ohio. But his knowledge of music led him into the niche of musical director. Now, the 26-year-old veteran spins discs on the "Downbeat Derby," "Melody Matinee," "Easy Listening" and "One-Night Stand" programs. In Europe, during the war, he served with AFRS and it was there that he met a Red Cross worker, Janice Klopfenstein, who last March became Mrs. Hal Graves.



singers' stuff

FRANKIE LAINE is off for Chicago. The lean years in which he struggled for recognition are just a memory now as he prepares to headline the bill at Chi's Sherman Hotel and, later this fall, Dixon's Club (now known as the Troubador) in New York.

No youngster, Laine is in his mid-thirties, but the kids who last year were screaming for Sinatra have changed their tune and now scream for another—an older—Frankie. Laine started singing in Chicago at a time when the late Frank Teschemacher, Jess Stacy, Muggsy Spanier and others of the "Chicago Jazz" school were beginning to attract attention. But nothing happened.

In New York he fared no better. "I once sang on three radio programs a week for Station WINS," he recalls, cynically, "and was paid \$5 a week."

In Cleveland and other cities in the Middlewest he gamely sought success as a singer. Finally, with the war, he came to Hollywood, entered a war plant and—temporarily—forgot a singing career. Al Jarvis began airing Frankie's pipes in 1945 and that led to his "discovery" by Berle Adams and Jimmy Hilliard, who last August dug up "That's My Desire" and handed it over to Laine for a record. Since then, he's moved up rapidly. No longer is Laine a west coast fave with the kids. He's got fanatical followers everywhere.

Carl Fischer, pianist with whom Frankie collaborated on several original tunes, will make the trip east as the Laine arranger and conductor. Frankie is said to be paying Carl \$300 a week with more to come.

The oldest in a family of seven children, Laine is well aware of his popularity, and determined to increase it. He doesn't sound like the "swooner" crop of baritones; most of the time he shouts out full voice, waving his arms a la Jolson, and dramatizing the lyrics with broad gestures.

Laine's style is based, essentially, upon a beat. For a year or so, at the time when Jarvis was broadcasting him "live" over KFWB in Hollywood, Frankie aped Nat Cole's style without even attempting to be subtle. On one record session he even brought in Oscar Moore to play guitar backgrounds identical to those featured on Nat's discs. But recently Frankie has modified his manner



FRANKIE LAINE, shown with Jimmy Durante and noted songwriter Irving Berlin, leaves Hollywood this month for a Sept. 19 opening at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago, to be followed by a New York run at Dixon's Troubador Club. Story at left.

and his resemblance to Cole is no longer obvious.

That's the story behind Frankie Laine, whose 15-year campaign to win public acceptance is, at long last, paying off. On Sept. 19 he will open at the Chicago Sherman for four weeks, and then move on to New York for a run at the Troubador. This time, he thinks, things will be different. His fans are sure of it.

Earl Dancer trying to interest major studios in filming the life of Ethel Waters.

15,000 Musicians Vie For Jobs

The number of professional musicians now living in Los Angeles has tripled since Pearl Harbor.

Officials of Local 47, American Federation of Musicians, reveal that their roster now comprises 15,000 performers. Of this number, it is said, less than 5,000 are regularly employed despite the city's leadership in the motion picture and radio industries.

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PEE-WEE HUNT: Palladium.
PETE DAILY: Hangover Club.
RUSS MORGAN: Biltmore Hotel.
GEECHIE SMITH: Cricket Club.
FRANKIE MASTERS: Casino Gardens.
PHIL MOORE: Rounders Club.
CONNIE JORDAN: Swanee Inn.
POISON GARDNER: Toddle House.
ROY MILTON: Cobra Club.
MATTY MALNECK: Sarnex.
MILTON DeLUCC: Slapsie Maxie's.
KAY STARR: Club Morocco.
D'VARGA: Club Morocco.
RONNIE KEMPER: Club Morocco.
EDDIE DAVIS: 409 Club.
ABBEY BROWN: Charley Foy's.
MANNY STRAND: Earl Carroll's.
NICK COCHRAN: Larry Potter's.
STAN KENTON: The Woodshed.
PEG LEE-DAVE BARBOUR: CBS, Hollywood.
WOODY HERMAN: CBS, Hollywood.
JACK SMITH: CBS, Hollywood.
DAVID ROSE: NBC, Hollywood.

Kay Starr Big Morocco Draw

Kay Starr is finally coming into her own. Now starred at the Club Morocco on Hollywood's busy Vine street, the former Joe Venuti chirpee is taking over where Frankie Laine left off and despite her difficulties working with D'Varga's hokey "society" orchestra, is building a big following that may well zoom her to the top during the coming fall season.

Kay gets top billing, above the ork, and above Ronnie Kemper, novelty singer once featured with Horace Heidt. Kemper is making his debut as a nitery attraction in California.

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GOD BE WITH YOU

Four-part harmonies in a thrilling rendition.



UNCLE HENRY'S Original Kentucky Mountaineers, now on tour in the Middlewest, comprise Casey Jones, Karl Davis, Grandpappy Nerit, Harty Taylor, Billy Foy and Sally Warren. Lee Gillette tells about 'em below.

Jack Guthrie Stricken; Now In Vets' Hospital

By LEE GILLETTE

Medicos last month put the brakes to the talented western singer, Jack Guthrie, famous throughout the United States for his "Oklahoma Hills." Jack was sent to the vets' hospital at Livermore, Calif., and will be required to undergo special medical treatment for at least a year.

The news comes as a shock not only to Guthrie himself, but to his legion of friends and followers everywhere, for it is recalled that he went into the service and was shipped to Okinawa just as his record of "Oklahoma Hills" was released in 1945. The record was one of the biggest sellers of the year, and Guthrie was unable to take advantage of his success by playing "in person" at a time when folks wanted to see him in action in person. And now, as he was stricken, officials of CBS in Oklahoma City were awaiting his arrival there to take over a new cowboy jamboree which was to have

been aired coast to coast from Oklahoma City.

Jack can be written at the hospital in Livermore. He's a great trouper. We'll all be awaiting his return.

Uncle Henry's Original Mountaineers, after four years of broadcasting over Chicago's WJJD, are now touring with their own show. This month in Chicago (see photo) Uncle Henry and his combo will return to Chicago to wax more sides for the Red Cap American label. Ken Nelson will supervise the sessions.

FOLKS TO WATCH: Hank Thompson, who does a bang-up job around Dallas and vicinity. . . Cliffie Stone, whose Capitol etching of "Sugar Hill" is helping him book more and more personal appearances with his rhythmic barn dance band. . . Tex Williams, who just completed a Universal musical short. The "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke" man is hotter than the little red wagon. . . Hal Horton, whose KRLD "Hillbilly Hit Parade" hits 77 stations—77—this month via network.

Slim Out Of Swanee; Connie Jordan Opens

Replacing Slim Gaillard at the L. A. Swanee Inn in mid-August was Connie Jordan, singer who has been attracting wide attention on the coast recently. His "Jordanaires" unit may be held at the Swanee indefinitely. GAC books the unit.

Krupa In Theater

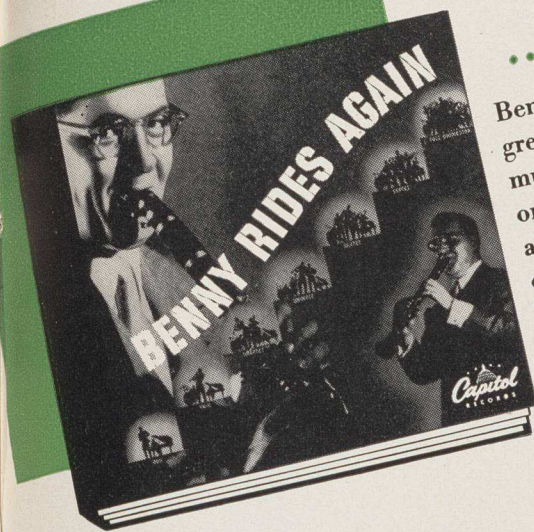
Gene Krupa's band will play a week at the L. A. Million Dollar Theater starting Sept. 2.

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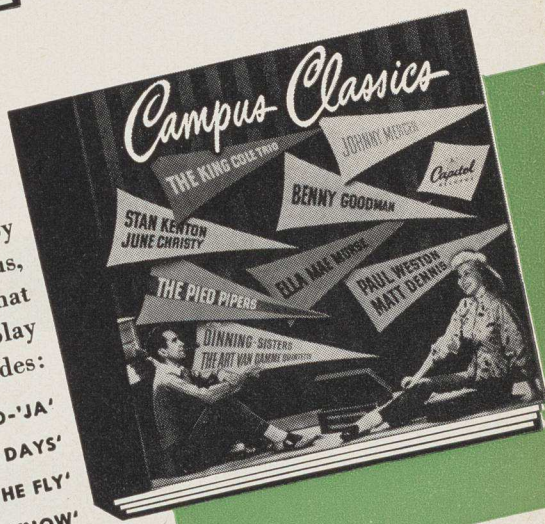
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 - THE DINNING SISTERS — 'I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS'
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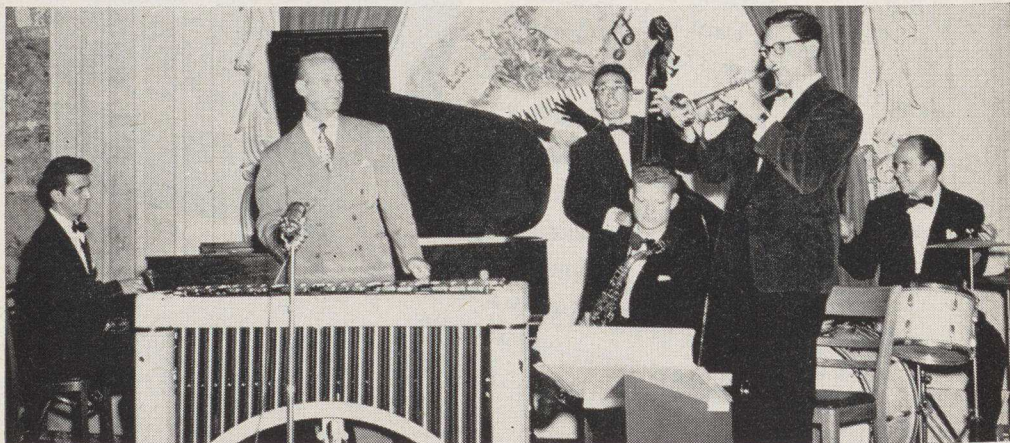
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Hollywood Sees Red



RED NORVO'S newest combo, creating big talk on the west coast, made its debut at the Hollywood Bodge recently with Red featured on vibes. Others pictured include Fred Otis, piano; Joe Mondragon, bass; Ray Linn,

trumpet; Jack (Zoot) Sims, tenor; Don Lamond, drums. Norvo is now a member of the Los Angeles musicians' union and plans to make his permanent headquarters on the coast.

— Photo by Gene Howard.